Message Text

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA USMISSION OECD PARIS USDEL MTN GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL BERN 1985

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ENRG SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS REACTION TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON ENERGY AND RAW

MATERIALS

REF: STATE 110686

- 1. EMBASSY MADE AVAILABLE MAY 13 SUMMARY (BASED PARAS 1-3 REFTEL) OF PROPOSALS IN SECRETARY'S KANSAS CITY SPEECH TO SWISS FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (SECRETARY GENERAL THALMANN AND CHIEF OF ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SERVICE ZWAHLEN) AND DIVISION OF COMMERCE (JOLLES, LANGUETIN, AND LEVY).
- 2. E/C COUNSELOR HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS PROPOSALS BRIEFLY WITH ZWAHLEN AND LEVY. BOTH GAVE PRELIMINARY POSITIVE REACTION AND PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED BEING BRIEFED IN ADVANCE OF SPEECH.
- 3. ON SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, LEVY SAID GOS WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME EFFORT IN MTN'S IN AREA OF SUPPLY ACCESS. SIMILARLY, SWISS ARE CONVINCED THAT NEW ARRANGEMENTS ON COMMODITY BY COMMODITY BASIS ARE NEEDED. BUT SINCE CIRCUMSTANCES VARY SO GREATLY BETWEEN COMMODITIES LEVY THOUGHT REAL TEST WOULD COME IN HOW UPCOMING EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE ON SUCH COMMODITIES AS COCOA, TIN, AND COFFEE WERE HANDLED. SWISS FULLY AGREE THAT UNLESS NEW WAYS FOUND TO EXPAND INVESTMENT IN RAW MATERIALS PRODUCTION, WORLD ECONOMIC UPSWING WILL LEAD TO NEW GAPS IN SUPPLY/DEMAND EQUATION AND CONSEQUENT PRICE PRESSURES AND BOTTLENECKS. SWITZERLAND, AS NON-MEMBER WORLD BANK, WOULD HAVE OPEN MIND ON WHETHER IBRD IS BEST OR ONLY BEHICLE TO EXPLORE SUBJECT.

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4. SWISS FULLY AGREE THAT EXISTING MULTILATERAL FORA SHOULD BE FULLY UTILIZED, ALTHOUGH THEY SENSE THAT INCREASINGLY PRODUCERS AND LDCS WILL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH WORDS AND WILL INSIST ON ACTION. WITH REGARD TO TACTICS AND PROCEDURAL OPTIONS, LEVY THOUGHT SWISS WOULD GO ALONG WITH IEA MAJORITY IF THERE WAS FEELING THAT NEW MEETING OR PREPCON SHOULD TAKE PLACE. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN THAT DATE OF

NEW MEETING WAS REALISTIC AND THAT THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS TAKE PLACE IN ADVANCE SO THAT CONSUMER POSITION WAS WELL PREPARED AND CREDIBLE. IF NEW PREPCON WERE AGAIN TO DISCUSS SUBSTANCE HE ALSO WONDERED WHETHER COMPOSITION (INCLUDING ROLE OF FRANCE) OF FIRST PREPCON WAS NECESSARILY ONE THAT SHOULD BE REPEATED.

5. LEVY ALSO NOTED THAT IT IS CLEAR THAT FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRODUCERS AND LDCS CAN CLEARLY NOT BE CONFINED TO ENERGY ALONE AND THUS WONDERED IF IEA MINISTERIAL WAS APPROPRIATE LOCUS TO DISCUSS RAW MATERIAL POLICY, ETC. IN ANY EVENT, HE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT THAT PREPARATIONS AND EXPECTED RESULTS OF IEA AND OECD MINISTERIALS BE CLOSELY COORDINATED WITH RESPECT TO BOTH ENERGY AND OTHER RELATED SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO CONSUMERS, PRODUCERS, AND LDCS.

6 AS NOTED ABOVE, THESE COMMENTS REPRESENTED PRELIMINARY REACTION; FURTHER SWISS IDEAS WILL PROBABLY COME AT MAY 20 IEA GOVERNING BOARD MEETING WHICH WILL PRESUMABLY MAKE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR MINISTERIAL. WE UNDERSTAND SWISS HAVE PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED MEETING LATER THIS WEEK WITH AUSTRIA AND SWEDEN TO DISCUSS IEA MATTERS WHICH WILL PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS RE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY FURTHER REACTION WE RECEIVE.

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